

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00326 081702Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 RSC-01 /018 W

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P R 081625Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

SECSTATE WASHDC 2234

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STATE FOR NEA/RA MONTGOMERY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA OVIP SA

SUBJ: TIME MIDEAST "NEWSTOUR" FOR BUSINESS LEADERS

1. TIME "NEWSTOUR" LOGISTICAL ADVANCE MAN ERNIE HILL ARRIVING BEIRUT TOMORROW. HE AND BILL STEWART THEN PROCEEDING TO KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA. THEY WILL BE JOINED IN SAUDI ARABIA BY OTHER MEMBERS OF ADVANCE TEAM, BOB SWEENEY AND ANN BELLOWS.

2. BILL STEWARD REQUESTS THAT FOLLOWING MSG BE PASSED TO APO RUGGIERO. QUOTE ERNIE HILL AND I COMING TO SAUDI ARABIA IN ADVANCE OF "NEWSTOUR" AND WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE. COULD YOU ASK MANSOUR TO ASK ABDUL WAHHAB TO AUTHORIZE SAUDI EMBASSY IN KUWAIT TO ISSUE VISAS TO US? WE WILL APPLY AT SAUDI EMBASSY IN BEIRUT AND WILL BE IN KUWAIT FOR FEW DAYS AS OF JAN 9. COULD YOU ALSO CHECK WITH MANSOUR AS TO WHETHER GOVT PREFERS ISSUE "NEWSTOUR" VISAS EN BLOC AT RIYADH AIRPORT UPON ARRIVAL JAN 27 OR WHETHER IT PREFERS TO HAVE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DO THAT?. WAHHAB INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR AIRPORT ARRIVAL VISAS, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING PRECISE. MANY THANKS AND BEST REGARDS TO YOU AND JIM SMITH. UNQUOTE.

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3. SINCE TIME-NY WAITING TO HEAR FROM TIME-BEIRUT ON

QUESTION OF AIRPORT VS WASHINGTON VISAS, STEWART REQUESTS
EMBASSY JIDDA TO TRANSMIT SAUDI ANSWER TO DEPT AND TO EMBASSY
BEIRUT FOR TRANSMISSION TO TIME.

4. ALTHOUGH STEWART HAS NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED IT,
YOU MAY WISH ANTICIPATE ADDITIONAL REQ FOR ASSISTANCE
IN GETTING VISAS FOR SWEENEY AND BELLOWS BY ASKING SAUDI
GOVT TO AUTHORIZE SAUDI EMBASSY IN BEIRUT TO ISSUE
THEM VISAS AT SAME TIME THAT IT AUTHORIZES SAUDI EMBASSY
IN KUWAIT TO ISSUE STEWART AND HILL VISAS.
GODLEY

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